

1 **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

3 1. (presently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

4 a jet mill for the comminuation of powdery materials, comprising:

5 a ~~pressure-resistant pulverizing inner casing, the inner casing for resisting a first high~~
6 pressure outside the inner casing against a second pressure lower than the first
7 high pressure inside the inner casing, the inner casing for being completely
8 contained inside an outer casing, wherein the outer casing contains a fluid
9 having the first high pressure inside the outer casing, the inner casing having at
10 least one first inlet port for introducing a propellant fluid from ~~a~~ an annular
11 pressurized duct formed by at least one inside wall of the outer casing and at
12 least one outside wall of the inner casing, the propellant fluid fed through a wall
13 of the outer casing into the pressurized duct, and thence from the pressurized
14 duct through the at least one first inlet port into the inner casing, the inner casing
15 having abrasion resistant inner surfaces, the inner casing having at least one
16 second inlet port for introducing a powdery material into the inner casing, the
17 inner casing having at least one outlet port for extracting the comminuated
18 powdery material from the inner casing.

1 2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising the outer casing.

1 3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the outer casing operatively
2 compresses the inner casing over at least one area, and wherein at least one
3 vent is placed in the outer casing in the at least one area.

1 4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein an equalizing film is
2 inserted between the outer casing and the inner casing over the at least one
3 area.

1 5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the inner casing comprises four parts.

1 6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein each part of the inner casing is made
2 of a single abrasion-resistant material.

1 7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein parts of the inner casing are made
2 from different abrasion-resistant materials.

1 8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the abrasion resistant inner surface is
2 smooth

1 9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the abrasion resistant inner surface is
2 textured.

1 10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the abrasion resistant inner surfaces
2 are chosen from a group consisting of hard metals, carbides, borides, nitrides,
3 and ceramic materials.

1 11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the inner casing comprises four
2 parts.

1 12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein each part of the inner casing is
2 made of a single abrasion-resistant material.

1 13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein parts of the inner casing are made
2 from different abrasion-resistant materials.

1 14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the propellant fluid is air.

- 1 15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the propellant fluid is nitrogen.
- 1 16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the propellant fluid is steam.
- 1 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the abrasion resistant inner surface
2 is smooth.
- 1 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the abrasion resistant inner surface
2 is textured
- 1 19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the inner casing comprises four
2 parts.
- 1 20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein each part of the inner casing is
2 made of a single abrasion-resistant material.
- 1 21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein parts of the inner casing are made
2 from different abrasion-resistant materials.
- 1 22-26. (Canceled)
- 1 27. (Canceled) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the pressurized duct is an annular
2 duct.
- 1 28. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the inner casing is
2 completely assembled before introduction into the outer casing.